Motions for reduction of total grant.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER :
169. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 72,804 for Administration, Management and Control by Re. 1

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER :
170. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 72,804 for Administration, Management and Control by Re. 1

SRIMATHI T. NARAYANI AMMA :
171. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 48,108 for Administration, Management and Control by Rs. 5

XXXII—STATE TRANSPORT SCHEME—
2. WORKING EXPENSES—*Total allotment.*

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM :
172. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,46,304 for Working Expenses by Re. 1

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH :
173. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,46,304 for Working Expenses by Re. 1

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN :
174. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,46,304 for Working Expenses by Re. 1

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN :
175. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,46,304 for Working Expenses by Re. 1

Motions for reduction of total grant under Demand IX.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI :
176. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 16,60,304 under Demand IX by Re. 1

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP :
177. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 16,60,304 under Demand IX by Rs. 10

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 16,60,304 under Demand IX Commercial Transport was put and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND X—CLAY REFINING AND PORCELAIN FACTORY.

SIRDAR DOGAR SINGH: Sir, I rise to move that the House be pleased to grant a sum of Rs. 3,39,900 under Demand X—Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory.

Motion No. 178.

The following motion was not moved :

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI :
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 1

Motion 179.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Sir, I beg to move the following motion :

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,39,900 for working expenses by Rs. 5 to point out the defects of the present administration and to discuss the necessity to change the management."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Kannanthodath Janardanan Nair.]

[At this stage the President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by the Deputy President.]

Sir, year after year I have endeavoured to bring to the notice of the House and the Government that this factory established by the Government in their earnestness to industrialise the State and opened by His Highness the Gracious Maharaja has failed to come up to our expectations. I have pointed out to this House that in the year 1114 when we expected a return of Rs. 3 lakhs the annual receipt was only Rs. 12,000 odd. In the year 1115 when we expected Rs. 2,22,000 the annual net receipt was only Rs. 6,000. In the year 1116 when we expected Rs. 3 lakhs the receipts were Rs. 46,451. How has the factory come to this state of affairs? Is it for want of Government sanctioning the necessary amount that is asked for by the Expert year after year? If we glance over the expenditure year after year we will see that when in 1115 we expected the expenditure to stand at Rs. 1,22,000, the actuals exceeded by Rs. 15,000. So also in 1117 when the expenditure was anticipated to stand at Rs. 1,89,000, the actual expenditure was Rs. 2,19,000. So also in the case of the capital expenditure. It could be seen from the accounts that the Government did not grudge to pay even excess amounts necessary for the actual working of the factory and to bring the factory on a profitable working basis. Because I have gone in detail into the working of the department and because I have pointed out to this House and the Government why this factory was not able to yield the results that is expected last year or year before last I do not mean to go into the matter or expatiate on the matter any further at present.

Take the case of the Rubber Factory. It was also opened by His Gracious Highness the Maharaja. The management was left to the expert. Whatever have been his capacity for the expert side on the management side he was monkeying with it. The result was that the Government had to close down the factory. Government lost a good lot of money that way by way of income tax and by way of capital expenditure. But when it was handed over to a private concern it yields good profits as also income tax. In the same way the Sugar Factory had also to be entrusted to an outside agency to yield profits. The Honourable Labour Member to the Government of Travancore, in answer to an interpellation of mine, said that the Ceramic Expert had administrative experience before. I know that he was a Tutor in the Ceramic Department in the Benares University which has not a manufacturing concern attached to it. The University is not intended to manufacture or sell any articles. That was pointed out repeatedly to Government as also of the hopeless management of this factory from the year 1113. In 1114 Government sent out a manager from the Account Office to take charge of the management of the factory as a result of these representations. The manager was there for one or two years working under the expert and not above him. We

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

can see from the last year's appropriation report what has been the result of handing over the management of the factory to a petty official from the Account Office deputed to work under the present expert. I am also at a loss to find what the Expert has actually done with regard to the instructions and recommendations passed by the audit and appropriation committee and its report of 1115.

Now Sir, the Dewan President explained here two or three days before in reply to an interpellation that we have entered into contracts with a company for the supply of first quality china clay for a definite number of years. And the Labour Commissioner has said on the floor of this House that our China Clay fetches Rs. 50 to 70 per ton. But I know as a matter of fact that the price of china clay is at present over Rs. 100 ranging up to Rs. 150 per ton in Northern India. When they entered into a contract to supply china clay Government could have very well borne in mind that the price of the material would naturally rise up during war time. War clouds were aloft when the Government entered into contracts with that firm. What should happen has now happened. This also I attribute to the want of foresight and experience in commercial transactions of the expert who is now managing the factory.

Now Sir, a word about mining. Some three months ago the Mining Supervisor who was in charge of the mining left our service. Thereafter mining was left to the supervision of the Expert who I know has neither studied mining nor possesses the least knowledge about it. After one month of his control he went into the mine and dismissed some 80 coolies employed in removing water probably with the idea that there was no necessity to remove water from the mines. The mine is 20 to 40 feet below the water level. The result was that water accumulated and one side of the mine came down. The Office of the Mining Engineer which was built at a cost of Rs. 600, two pumps of 20 horse power each, one pump of 14 horse power used in pumping water with about 10 trucks and about 2000 feet of 2" to 3" pipes were buried and damaged. I know they are all underground. I want to bring before Government the fact that if this state of affairs is allowed to continue even the lives of the people who work in the mines will be dangerous, will be undermined.

Now Sir, I come to a very delicate point regarding the character and behaviour of the present expert. I know that the Dewan President has warned us that we should not speak about corruption of an officer if that particular officer is not here to vindicate himself. But fortunately in this case Mr. Dogar Singh is present here. One aspect of this misbehaviour that he brings to bear upon the workers of the factory under which it is almost imperative for the workmen to succumb if they want to continue in the factory is unworthy of any mention in this House. I cannot speak of that aspect of his character without trespassing into the respectability, decency and delicacy of the honourable members before me. I do not want to mention those things on the floor of this House in the presence of the honourable members and also

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Kannanthodath Janardanan Nair.]

in the presence of the visitors including ladies. One Mr. Gopala Pillai, a contractor in the factory was assaulted and he filed a suit in the Magistrate's court at Quilon. But the case was withdrawn owing to the intervention of some respectable and influential non-official. Afterwards one lascar deputed by the Electrical Department to work in the factory was beaten.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will give the honourable member two minutes more.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: The workers in the factory have all been invariably submitted to blows at his hands. Adverting to this there is a case pending in the Quilon First Class Magistrate's court. I do not want to refer to that case or to its details, the matter being sub-judice. I can say only this much at present. The character and behaviour of Mr. Dogar Singh in the factory was not at all satisfactory in the past. Sir, as a reply to any criticism about him he has distributed a statement to the non-officials which contains the following:

> "One peculiarity with this industry is that it brings money from outside the State and distributes it among the people of Travancore".

If an industry which is started here is not to bring money from outside and distribute it as wages to the workers and as income tax to Government and to give good prices for the raw-material, I know not Sir, what other benefits are to accrue to the State by starting any industry costing a lot of money from the State's revenue. This aspect is not the monopoly of this industry alone. The Expert takes it as an exceptional credit that the ceramic industry gives wages to its workers from the sale of the factory products. In conclusion I may submit to Government that it is for the good of the State as well as for the good of the concern and the good of the present Expert that the management of the factory should be changed. With these words I strongly commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I second the motion. In doing so I do not propose to attack the character or conduct of the gentleman who manages the factory. I do not feel competent to express any opinion on that but if the allegations are true they must be borne out by evidence and if they are borne out by evidence it is a very serious thing and must be taken cognisance of. I propose to emphasise two or three points in this respect.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know from the honourable member that if the allegations are proved to be true by adequate evidence whether the matter does not require a public enquiry?

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: I am prepared to own on the floor of the House that if any portion of the allegations are borne out by evidence there must be an open enquiry. But I reserve to myself

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the right of making up my mind in regard to this question, until it comes to me in some capacity in some definite manner. Sir, the first point which I want to urge is the immediate necessity of separating the expert side of the factory from the managing side. There is at present a plethora of educated men, educated and well-trained experts in the land. By utilising the talents of these men we can make the Ceramic Factory yield better results than what is seen in the reports submitted to Government. In this connection Sir, I wish to ask a question. If a liberal nature has deposited considerable quantities of infinitely fine clay in the bowels of the earth, and if that portion of the earth happens to be within the territory of His Gracious Highness the Maharaja, my question is how much money we are spending to extricate that valuable material and transform them to articles and wares on a commercial basis. It is my settled conviction that an expert who loves his profession, who loves his art would think twice before taking up the management of any institution. He would concentrate his whole attention to the profession he loves and would refuse to be in charge of any departmental management. But I do not find this professor of the Benares University—an important university—loving his profession or art as he ought to do. He is enamoured of his office. Why did this gentleman who normally according to the test should like his profession, and its scientific atmosphere, why did he not refuse the office of a manager by saying "look here, my good masters, I am a technical man. I can only see to the technical side of the factory." But what I find is that there is a kind of hipnotic influence emanating from the Expert operating upon the Government, so that our Government officers are prone to think that the affairs concerning ceramics are so difficult for them to handle. These stalwarts on the Government benches are not able to explain to us the true state of affairs concerning the microcosm of a ceramic factory. (Hear, hear). Therefore, Sir, let us unravel this mystery. Let the experts say candidly that there is no use in combining actual professional work with the work of management. As Government are managing other institutions, where management is practically separated from expert work, the same rule may be applied to the Ceramic Factory.

In regard to the Ceramic Factory, the profit side is the most important question to be considered. The factory is there not for its metaphysical possibilities, not for its musical propensities: it is there for bringing in money which gives a pleasant sensation to the touch. If that money is not forthcoming in the measure anticipated by Government, then this Government and this House have to turn round and say that we have been duped in our expectations and hopes and therefore let us look into the matter, let us see its success in fresh fields and pastures new. I do not understand why this kaolin business should be considered such a difficult matter. I mean no disparagement to Mr. Dogar Singh. In what I am going to say I merely make a general statement. In our country there are certain classes of people who work on clay. They are called potters. I know there are very intelligent people in that community. In Malayalam that community is called Kushavas. The word kushavan is sometimes applied to a person

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Sadasyatilaka T. K. Velu Pillai]

who is not intelligent. But that is not the case with the Ceramic Expert. Here is a man who understands his business. He installed the whole factory and made it possible for the Travancore Government to hope for money and enabled the Financial Secretary to make a statement that his work has resulted in an addition to the revenue. I have no personal complaints against Mr. Dogar Singh. I am making this statement deliberately to the House that something must be done to separate the expert side from the management side; something must be done to enable these able officers on the official benches to find out what is exactly going on within the inner recesses of the Ceramic Factory so that they may be able to enlighten us more on the subject. With these words, Sir, I am very happy to second the motion.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA (*Commerce and Industry South*): Sir, one aspect of the administration of the department has been very violently put forward and I stand up to give the other aspect of the concern. I think that honourable members will concede that one who has some experience of commerce is in some way able to speak about this subject. Certain aspersions were made about the personal character of the Expert. I have nothing to say about that because it is a matter which is being looked into. I do concede that there is room for improvement. Marketing must be taken out and entrusted to another person. Subject to that there is nothing to be said against the Expert. What strikes me is that the honourable members of the House do not seem to realise fully that it takes years and years of actual experiment to put into working order a gigantic scheme of this kind. In my own humble sphere I had to spend two or three years before I could organise a proposition. As one who has travelled abroad I can say that our China Clay Factory is very well organised. I may say that the Mysore Factory is only like a cow-shed in comparison with ours. The only addition they have is the electric furnace.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: Can I take it that the honourable member means that Mysore has been spending less on their factory than the Travancore Government?

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: Yes, it is so. Their factory is by comparison like a cow-shed. Ours is a gigantic factory. Honourable members perhaps do not know the care and attention that has been bestowed upon it. Mr. Dogar Singh might have been a professor; that does not mean that he has not a vision to manage this factory. As one who has got commercial experience, I may say that I was amazed at the beautiful arrangements he has made, the trolley line, etc. We can have wonderful results from his organisation. Every month I get friends from abroad and I take them to see the factory. Every time I go there I see beautiful innovations are introduced in order to accelerate production. It was just like Mr. Janardanan Nair to find out only the faults. He goes there to find out what are the mistakes blinding his eyes completely to the good aspect. I trust I am not judging wrongly. I must pay a meed of tribute to the Expert who has constructed the factory in a masterly manner. I must agree with Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai in that Mr. Dogar Singh cannot take pride for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the quality of the clay. The country alone can take credit for it. But Mr. Dogar Singh is entitled to credit for the fine work he has done. If I am not mistaken, we are far advanced from the stage of experiment and the symptoms are very clear that there will be very beneficial results from the production. We can get tons of money merely by selling the clay. We are receiving bumper orders from Government for our manufactured articles.

Mr. Janardanan Nair made a comparison between the Rubber Factory and the Clay Factory. He said that the Rubber Factory is moneyed by commercial people. Every time commercial people come he may say that he is monkeyed. In the Clay Factory it is not so. War has come in very timely and profit from the Clay Factory has increased.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai referred to the receipt from our china clay as a microcosm. I do believe that the revenue is great. It is going to be one of the main sources of income. Experts may come and experts may go; one may be here to-day and may go away to-morrow; But I make bold to say that our China Clay Factory is going to be one of the sure sources of revenue to the State. Under such conditions it cannot be called a microcosm. With these words, I oppose the motion.

In my own way, I employ about 4,000 people. Very many things are done behind me. So I am prepared to concede that there may be abuses in the labour administration. It may not be an ideal administration. But I do give credit to the organisation. He is being sinned against than sinning.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: A word of personal explanation. I sometimes hold brief for others; in this case I hold for myself. By saying 'microcosm' I did not mean that the revenue is small. I know that the revenues will increase. All that I meant was that in the immensity of the world this factory is a microcosm.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know whether the honourable member is aware that in 1114, 1115 and 1116, when we realised more than a lakh of rupees by sale of china clay, our net receipts were Rs. 14,000, Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 4,000 respectively simply because of the bad administration there in making second quality goods?

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: It is only by making mistakes that you can achieve success. My friend is ignorant of that. Money must be thrown and mistakes must be made; then only we will be pillars of success. Success will come with re-doubled interest.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: The honourable member did not understand my question. My point was that for the selling of china clay no Expert is necessary. But when work is done it is done by experts. One fact about which he is blissfully ignorant is we are wasting the profit on the sale of china clay. I want to impress that on him.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Sir, as I was listening to the speech of the honourable members who have preceded me, I must confess that the impression made on me was rather sickening. It is rather a painful duty for me to speak about a case put forth on the score of personal character or demeanour. In this particular matter what we find is that here is an expert who is entrusted with a very responsible work of developing the clay industry. In the first place, Sir, I have had good personal experience with Punjabis generally and Punjabi Sikhs in particular to which our Expert Mr. Dogar Singh belongs. That is why I said a little while ago that it is rather sickening to hear the personal comment in respect of this Expert. It is more sickening to hear the remark that a Punjabi Sikh is wanting in moral conduct and his character is anything but satisfactory. He is so characterised as somebody not worth listening to at all nor to be kept any longer in service. Granting what has been said about his harsh treatment of the factory coolies and the alleged reprehensible conduct towards them be true, I ask whether this House is justified in condemning the whole work of this expert. Should this House concern itself with his personal conduct and behaviour? He is in charge of the development of a very valuable industry. I for one would say and advise, if any advice was needed, to this honourable House not to have anything to do with the personal conduct of a gentleman who has been entrusted with the responsible work of running a factory which is in its initial stages. He may be a bad boss and a short-tempered master. In his desire to get things rightly, he may have chastised his workmen or he may have been provoked to lose his temper occasionally or for the matter of that I can conceive, he may have given blows to his labourers, when they were found to be careless and damaged his products. Perhaps these might have happened and if so they are done with the best of intentions, to see that good work is turned out by the coolies. It is but natural. If I am entrusted with a particular work and if I find it done amiss by the employees, naturally I lose my temper at their carelessness. It may be borne in mind that carelessness causes loss or damage. After all, rough handling may be intended to correct the coolies. I wonder why that should be condemned and why it should be proclaimed that the Expert is not fit to be an expert, and all the rest of it. Why should anybody speak about his personal conduct being disorderly and rough with his employees? Loss of temper arises from a particular circumstance and that it is not a disqualification to one being an expert and could not be made a subject of discussion now. The expert has to do and labour at his work justifying his venture for which he has to be extremely careful. He has to manage his labourers efficiently and keep them in perfect discipline. That being the case, while discussing this question of the prospects and expectations of the ceramic industry one ought not to be guided by lapses of temper on the part of the expert, if there be any. Apart from this, Sir, may I say about my experience of the Kundara Factory. On one occasion I had the fortune to go to the factory just to have a superficial knowledge about the working of the factory. My first impression was agreeable and most hopeful. As my friend Mr. Pereira put it succinctly, I saw the factory being modelled

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

In very desirable directions so much so every minute branch of the whole factory was found to be quite in fitting with the harmonious working of it. There was no jarring or jerking in the smooth and the beautiful lay out. It gave me pride to think of it. That speaks of the work done by this expert. In the initial stages of the working of a factory, one always has to associate with loss. I am at one with that. I do not propose to deal with the working of the factory, with its profit and loss accounts. It is not time enough. I am not going to speak with reference to expectations which are admittedly there and the minus figures as for the accounts of last year are not understood correctly, as was done by my honourable friend Mr. Narayana Pillai. Minus figures might have been due to so many reasons, for which the expert may not be responsible at all. It may be due to the way of accounting as different from a commercial concern. All the same, in the working of the initial stages of a concern, one should expect some loss and should not find fault with it. Here at present, it is not so. The war orders are great and could not be met. Refined clay is being sold expecting a good return. Finished products are also made and sold side by side with refined clay. Should not we go in for an expert to produce finished products out of it? We are producing for the first time cups, saucers, jars etc. from the Kundara clay. Is not this expert putting to good use, the clay at Kundara? Is he not refining the coarse earth or clay in a scientific manner? Is he not also producing cups, saucers, jars and beautiful toys out of this clay for the first time in Travancore? If some cups and saucers get broken while being removed from the furnace or while in transit to Trivandrum, who is responsible for the breakage? It is the expert. If the breakages are due to faulty manufacture, these breakages will certainly tell upon the balance sheet of the concern. If these are only incidental, it is nothing. Again, there is also another question, the market outside this country. We have to compete in the market with outside products from clay. It is difficult to do it now. Though I do not claim to know all these details, this much I can say namely that the factory at Kundara has been very well organised, That is due to the present expert. That being so, why not give him credit for that? He may or may not be a man equipped with University qualifications. He may be only a Professor in the Benares University, as contended for, by some. We have come across very many persons who are called experts after having studied in a University. They are invariably found experts in cramming books and not in making things, not in making intelligent application of things studied in a practical manner. It may be true that Dogar Singh may not be a graduate of any University. Therefore on that score one should not scandalise him. The Kundara factory is based on very sure foundations and we can justifiably expect good return from that investment. From all these circumstances, it is clear that hostile criticism is not only premature but based on insufficient and irrelevant consideration to judge the result of his work. We cannot condemn him straight-away and come to certain unfortunate conclusions. In my opinion, he has the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai]

necessary ability and practical experience and expert equipment to see that the factory produces the best materials and thereby to bring it in the front rank of similar factories in India. All that I would say now is, let us give him some more time to prove his merits. Let us give him all the money he wants, so that he may improve his products. My friend Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai was saying that the administrative branch should be separated from the technical branch. That should not be. Here, both things should be under one and the same management. They have to go hand in hand in the initial stages. For instance, every detail of the working of the factory has to be directed, supervised and controlled by the expert who is primarily responsible for the finished manufacture of the products. It is not enough that the Expert sticks to his laboratory alone. He has to teach the workmen to become skilled in every stage of the work, from the process of refining the clay to prepare moulds, to watch the temperature of the furnace, to burn them properly and in over so many such details. It will take a long time before the workers are taught them. All these are incidental to the running of a factory in its infant stage, particularly when so many coolies are employed there for work I can imagine that the boxing or rough handling of coolies alleged to be indulged in by the Expert is no surprise to me. Who knows there are not many such incidents in other factories as the coir factories at Alleppey and Shertalla? If the goods get somewhat unsatisfactory as a result of carelessness then alone such incidents of physical handling happen. There is no one coming out of those factories to tell us all the incidents they may have experienced by way of chastising, slapping, or beating etc.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether the member encourages such form of punishment?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Certainly not. These are only incidental to works to be done after acquiring skill.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: I rise to a point of order. So long as the Government Ceramic Expert does not say any of those things, does this point arise?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Whether the Expert has done such things or not, I do not know. Just as the honourable member said that he did not hold any brief for the Expert, I also say that I do not hold brief for him. Even if he had done certain actions of a physical nature such as boxing, beating the labourers etc., we need not criticise him as not being an Expert. It might have been done only in the interests of turning out good work from the factory by the employees who are new to this work. That is my argument.

So then, Sir, I would say that we will wait and watch his work for a sufficient period, within which I hope, he will more than amply justify the confidence reposed in him by our Government. Let us see whether he is able to justify his position both as an Expert and as an administrative officer so far as that factory work is concerned. If it is found that he has failed there, then it will be time enough to demand for a change. I believe that proud as the Punjabi is, he will justify his existence creditably. With these words, I oppose the motion.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR : Sir, I also wish to say a few words on this motion. Taking the hint from my esteemed friend Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai's speech, I am particularly reminded of a Tamil proverb which is as follows —

"குயவனுக்கு பலநாள் வேலை குடிக்காரனுக்கு ஒரு நாள் வேலை."

Translated into English it means that a potter may take many days to make a pot but a hit with a stick destroys the pot at once. Therefore, in attacking the Ceramic Expert, I should think that one has to be very careful because he makes pots. We are not therefore to assume the role of the man with a stick in his hand. The work that he is performing is by its very nature subject to ever so many inherent risks. It has been stated by Mr. Janardanan Nair and I agree with him that Mr. Singh is a hard-taskmaster. I saw this one day, myself. When I was there one evening, one maistry brought the attendance list of the coolies and wanted his signature. He would not, until he saw the persons themselves and got himself satisfied as to whether they actually worked. This incident shows that he is a very strict master with whom the subordinates have to be careful. That indicates also how strict he is in his duties. When he is strict, that necessarily gives room for some sort of complaint from the subordinates. That being so, the alleged charge of hard-heartedness on the part of Mr. Singh could be easily explained as meaning strictness. My friend Mr. Janardanan Nair said that the Ceramic Expert assaulted some of his subordinates and there have been criminal cases. There are two sides to this question. The cases may be true or false. Only after they have been decided we can come to any definite conclusion. Till that time, we have to discard all harsh comments about him on this score. The alleged allegations therefore could not now be taken against Mr. Singh. That is my opinion on the matter.

As regards the working of the factory is concerned, I have to say one word. We now feel proud that we have the finest clay in the subsoils of Kundara. But all that treasure lying underneath the earth till now has been cleverly taken out by Mr. Singh and it has been proved that what he has collected is of the finest quality. Mr. Singh is therefore entitled to credit for his fine labour.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI : Was it not after the advent of the present Dewan of Travancore and after the quality was discovered that this expert Mr. Singh was sent for ?

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR : Yes, Sir. In all such matters, there is the credit due to the first author. What I say is that. We saw very fine china clay after Mr. Singh's arrival here.

The House rose for the day at 5 P. M.

V. S. ARUMUKHOM PILLAY,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly